



Bob Wise, Governor

West Virginia Office of the Governor Communications Office

NEWS RELEASE

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WISE ANNOUNCES MEDICAL ASSURANCE TO EXPAND ITS PRESENCE IN THE STATE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Gov. Bob Wise today announced that Medical Assurance of West Virginia (MAWV) will seek to write new and renewal policies for West Virginia physicians that meet its underwriting criteria following the approval of its latest rate filing.

“There is mounting evidence that West Virginia’s medical liability insurance market continues to stabilize,” Wise said. “This decision shows the faith MAWV has in West Virginia. We will do all we can to guarantee that every West Virginian has access to the doctors her or she needs, and that every West Virginia doctor has access to reasonably priced medical malpractice insurance.”

Medical Assurance of West Virginia was, at one time, the leading writer of medical liability insurance for doctors in West Virginia; however, its exposure has decreased considerably since peaking in 1998.

“Our continuing efforts to achieve the goal of having an available, affordable and stable medical liability insurance climate in West Virginia is being realized,” said Insurance Commissioner Jane L. Cline. “We are pleased that MAWV will continue insuring qualified West Virginia physicians while seeking to write new policies in the future.”

The decision by MAWV to seek new business in West Virginia comes one week after NCRIC, another provider of medical liability insurance, reversed its decision to cease writing policies in West Virginia, and is based in part on the companies belief that rates have reached a level of adequacy.

Howard Friedman, Senior Vice President of Pro Assurance, the parent company of MAWV, says “West Virginia has been a difficult market in the past; however, we are hopeful that recent changes in state laws, if upheld in the courts, will have a positive effect on future loss costs. We appreciate the efforts of Governor Wise, Commissioner Cline, and the West Virginia Legislature.”

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